CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-59. (Cancelled).

60. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing one or more cDNA molecules from one or more RNA templates, the method comprising incubating said RNA templates in a buffer solution containing dNTPs and one or more primers complementary to at least a portion of one or more of the RNA templates with a purified DNA polymerase derived from *Bacillus stearothermophilus* (Bst) type strain 5, in the presence of at least 1 mM magnesium ions and in the substantial absence of manganese ions, whereby cDNA molecules complementary to one or more of the RNA templates are obtained and wherein the purified DNA polymerase is full-length Bst ~~DNA polymerase~~ type strain 5 DNA polymerase.

61. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing one or more cDNA molecules from one or more RNA templates, the method comprising incubating said RNA templates in a buffer solution containing dNTPs and one or more primers complementary to at least a portion of one or more of the RNA templates with a purified DNA polymerase ~~derived from *Bacillus stearothermophilus* (Bst) type strain 5~~ in the presence of at least 1 mM magnesium ions and in the substantial absence of manganese ions, whereby cDNA molecules complementary to one or more of the RNA templates are obtained ~~and wherein the purified DNA polymerase is the product of a subtilisin digestion and is the truncated large fragment of full-length Bst DNA polymerase type strain 5~~, wherein the purified DNA polymerase is the subtilisin digestion product of full-length *Bacillus stearaothermophilus* (Bst) type strain 5 DNA polymerase that ~~fragment~~: (a) has a mass of about 55 to about 65 kDA as determined by 10% SDS PAGE; (b) lacks 5'-to-3' exonuclease activity; and (c) has reverse transcriptase activity in the presence of magnesium ions and in the substantial absence of manganese ions.

62. (Cancelled).

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61 wherein the magnesium ion concentration is about 1 mM to about 10 mM.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61 wherein the primers that are complementary to at least a portion of the RNA templates are selected from the group consisting of: (a) target-specific primers; (b) oligo(dT) primers; and (c) random primers.

65. (Cancelled).

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the magnesium ion concentration is about 1 mM to about 10 mM.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the primers that are complementary to at least a portion of the RNA templates are selected from the group consisting of: (a) target-specific primers; (b) oligo(dT) primers; and (c) random primers.

68. (New) A method for preparing one or more cDNA molecules from one or more RNA templates, the method comprising incubating said RNA templates in a buffer solution containing dNTPs and one or more primers complementary to at least a portion of one or more of the RNA templates with a purified DNA polymerase in the presence of at least 1 mM magnesium ions and in the substantial absence of manganese ions, whereby cDNA molecules complementary to one or more of the RNA templates are obtained, wherein the purified DNA polymerase: (a) is the subtilisin digestion product of full-length *Bacillus stearothermophilus* (Bst) type strain 5 DNA polymerase ATCC No. 12980; (b) has a mass of about 55 to about 65 kDA as determined by 10% SDS PAGE; (c) lacks 5'-to-3' exonuclease activity; and (d) has reverse transcriptase activity in the presence of magnesium ions and in the substantial absence of manganese ions.

69. (New) The method of claim 68 wherein the magnesium ion concentration is about 1 mM to about 10 mM.

70. (New) The method of claim 68 wherein the primers complementary to at least a portion of the RNA templates are selected from: (a) target-specific primers; (b) oligo(dT) primers; and (c) random primers.